

REMARKS

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action dated January 15, 2008 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 34, 37, and 114 - 115 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent 5,434,910 to Johnson. Paragraph 8 of the Office Action states that Claims 1, 9, 11, 14 - 15, 17 - 18, 20 - 24, 28, 90, 99 - 113, and 116 are allowable.

In the interest of progressing rapidly to issuance, Applicants have cancelled Claims 34, 37, and 114 - 115 from the application without prejudice herein. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to pass remaining Claims 1, 9, 11, 14 - 15, 17 - 18, 20 - 24, 28, 90, 99 - 113, and 116 to issuance as currently presented.

Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by the claims as presented prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as claim amendments and cancellations in the present application are directed toward facilitating expeditious prosecution of the application and allowance of the currently-presented claims at an early date. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by the claims as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims, in one or more continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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